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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

RAPIDS CONVENTION,

Burlington
Iowa, 1851

HELD AT

BURLINGTON, IOWA,

ON THE 23d AND 24th OF OCTOBER, 1851.

BURLINGTON, IOWA:
PRINTED BY MORGAN & McKENNY.

1852.

On motion of Hon. J. B. Bowlin, of Missouri, it was *Resolved*, That a committee of two from each State and Territory represented, be appointed to report to the convention, the names of a President, ten Vice Presidents, and three Secretaries, for the permanent organization of the convention:

The following gentlemen were appointed the committee:

From Iowa, Hon. Jos. Williams and William Y. Lovell—Illinois, J. W. Doughty and Wm. B. Henderson—Missouri, Geo. Partridge and J. E. Yeatman—Wisconsin B. F. Mannahan and H. S. Allen.

From Minnesota—H. K. Terrell and W. H. C. Folsom.

The committee retired.

On motion of Hon. J. B. Bowlin, Col. Stewart, of Missouri, President of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company, was invited to take a seat with the convention.

The committee appointed to report the names of persons as permanent officers of the convention, reported the following:

PRESIDENT :

Gov. STEPHEN HEMPSTEAD, of Iowa.

VICE PRESIDENTS :

HON. L. M. KENNET, of St. Louis,		
J. B. BOWLIN,	"	"
J. B. BRANT,	"	"
L. BISSELL,	"	"
R. P. LOWE,	"	Keokuk,
T. M. ISETT,	"	Muscatine,
J. M. GOODHUE,	"	St. Paul, Min.
ALEX. J. O'NEIL,	"	Wisconsin,
JAS. KNOX,	"	Knoxville, Ill.,
S. S. PHELPS,	"	Oquawka, Ill.

SECRETARIES :

C. D. Drake, of St. Louis, J. M. Morgan, of Burlington, and E. H. N. Patterson, of Oquawka.

The report of the committee was adopted. Gov. Hempstead, on being conducted to the Chair, returned his thanks to the convention in the following neat and appropriate speech:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: Permit me to return my sincere thanks for the honor you have conferred on me, in electing me to preside over your deliberations. I feel proud of the selection, for it is one of the most important conventions that has ever assembled in this portion of the country—certainly in northern Iowa. I see the feelings manifested by every one—the anxiety for the attainment of the great object for which this convention has been called. I see citizens from different parts of the country interested in the consummation of the work, and it is doubly gratifying to see the strength represented.

The object to be accomplished you all know too well, the removal of the obstructions to trade and commerce, in consequence of the difficulty of navigating the Rapids of the Upper Mississippi, and I am deeply sensible of the importance of having these difficulties removed.

We have assembled to urge upon Congress what we think and know to be right, in facilitating our commerce, in which all in this broad valley have a mutual interest, from St. Anthony's Falls to the Gulf of Mexico. And, gentlemen, this can only be done by unanimity of action; and to secure this, all should endeavor, to the best of their ability, to exercise towards each other that kindness and gentlemanly courtesy which is necessary for the purpose of carrying out this object. We know that different views exist on questions of detail, but above that we know an important fact, which is, that *we are all interested* in favor of the removal of the obstructions at the Rapids of the Upper Mississippi. We can see nothing against it—no constitutional objection in obtaining the necessary appropriation to consummate a work so national in its character.

The States and Territories, though they have arisen within a few years, yet have acquired such an influence of numbers, that by deliberations of the present character, and pressing upon Congress our demands through our representatives, I think they must accede to them. Iowa, when a territory, and since her assuming a State Government, has from time to time memorialized Congress to effect this great object, so generally desired, and their efforts have not been in vain; for one appropriation has been made years since and expended on the Rapids; and it is evident that by it the navigation has been improved. All who were familiar with the Rapids, before and since, will unite in this opinion. And why should not this river—the

largest in the world—carrying on its bosom the productions of an extent of country comprising the greater part of the entire Union, be improved at the national expense? The result of your deliberations, I hope, will conform to this end, by influencing the action of Congress to an immediate appropriation for the improvement of the navigation of the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids.

Permit me again to return you my thanks for the honor you have conferred on me, and I will conclude by hoping to see the proceedings conducted with that kindness and harmony of feeling which should characterize assemblies called for the purpose of securing objects of this kind.

On motion of Gen. Ranney, of St. Louis, it was

Resolved, That the rules of order and proceedings in the Congress of the United States, so far as the same are applicable, be adopted by the convention.

On motion the convention adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

On motion of Z. N. Garbutt, of St. Louis, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to bring before the convention such business as may be appropriate for its action.

The following gentlemen were appointed on the committee:

Geo. K. McGunnege, of St. Louis, Johnson, of Galena, W. H. C. Folsom, of Minnesota, Jas. W. Grimes, of Iowa, B. F. Mannahan, of Wisconsin.

During the absence of the committee appointed to prepare business for the action of the convention, Charles D. Drake, Esq., of St. Louis, being called upon for a speech, entertained the convention for near an hour with a very beautiful, appropriate and patriotic speech, which was highly applauded by the numerous auditory.

The business committee made a report, recommending

1st. That a committee of ten be appointed to present resolutions expressive of the sense of the convention upon the subject of the improvement of the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids of the Mississippi River.

2d. A committee of six to collect statistics of the population, trade and commerce of the Upper Mississippi River—the amount of tonnage which annually passes over the Rapids, the

number of steamboat disasters which have occurred upon them, and the annual loss sustained by the people of the Upper Valley in consequence of the obstructions, and to embody such statistics in the form of a memorial to Congress.

The following committee was appointed on resolutions :

N. Paschal and A. P. Ladew of St. Louis, Mr. Knowles, John Simpson and B. Taleferro, of Illinois, J. M. Beck, C. Mason and B. M. Samuels, of Iowa, H. K. Terrell, of Minnesota, and B. M. Mannahan, of Wisconsin.

The following gentlemen were appointed under the resolution providing for a memorial to Congress, viz:

Messrs. Henry W. Starr, David Rorer, J. C. Hall, J. F. Tallant, W. F. Coolbaugh and L. D. Stockton.

Mr. Rorer moved that the committee be instructed to report to-morrow morning—carried.

The convention adjourned to 7 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment, the President in the Chair.

L. M. Kennett, Esq., Mayor of St. Louis, being called upon, entertained the convention for a short time with a speech, in which he took occasion to assure them of the great interest taken by St. Louis and its citizens, in the removal of the obstructions from the Upper Mississippi, and of their anxiety to co-operate in any measures deemed necessary to secure the immediate and effectual action of Congress to effect the object.

Hon. Joseph Williams, moved a reconsideration of the vote of the convention by which the committee on statistics were instructed to report a Memorial to Congress by to-morrow morning.

Speeches were made by Judge J. Williams, Mr. McKinney of St. Louis, Judge Wilson of Du Buque, J. C. Hall of Burlington, Col. Goodhue of Minnesota, C. D. Drake, Esq., of St. Louis, and Mr. Clagett, of Keokuk.

The motion to reconsider was carried, and the original motion was then laid on the table.

The convention then adjourned till 9 o'clock Friday morning.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY MORNING, October 24.

The convention was called to order at 9 o'clock, A. M., by the President.

D. Rorer, Esq., presented to the convention a draft of a memorial to Congress, on the subject of the improvement of the Mississippi Rapids.

By consent, the memorial was laid on the table to receive the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

The committee by their chairman, N. Paschal, Esq., reported the following

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolved, As the opinion of this convention, composed of delegates from the States of Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin and Iowa, and the Territory of Minnesota, That the Mississippi River is a great National Highway, the control and jurisdiction of which has been reserved to Congress; and that it is the bounden duty of the National Legislature to make such improvements in the navigation of said river, as will place our commerce upon an equal footing with that of the Atlantic States of this Union.

Resolved, That the interests of nine States and one Territory imperatively demand the prompt action of Congress, in making adequate appropriations for the removal of the obstructions to the navigation of the River Mississippi, formed by the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids.

Resolved, That experience and the testimony of the navigators of the Upper Mississippi, demonstrate the correctness of the Surveys and Report made by Lieut. Lee in 1837 and 1838; and that no doubt is entertained by this convention of the practicability of the permanent improvement of the channel of the river at the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids, if such plans should be carried out. But this convention, at the same time that it gives expression to this opinion, defers to the action of Congress and of the officers to whom the execution of the work may be entrusted—asking only, with all the earnestness, that right and justice demand, that *free* and unobstructed navigation shall be granted to us.

Resolved, That the Senators and Representatives in Congress from the several States represented in this convention, be, and they are hereby respectfully requested to use their personal and united exertions to secure the early appropriation

of an amount of money which shall be adequate to complete the removal of the obstructions to a safe and speedy navigation of said river.

On motion, the report of the committee was received, and the resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

A motion was made to take up the Memorial offered by D. Rorer, Esq.

On this motion, the convention was addressed by Judge Lovell of Du Buque, Geo. Partridge of St. Louis, Gen. Rose of Oquawka, Hon. J. B. Bowlin of St. Louis, Gen. Ranney of St. Louis, and by Col. Stewart of Missouri, President of the Hannibal and St. Josephs Railroad company.

The motion to take the memorial from the table was carried.

On motion of Mr. Garbutt of St. Louis, the memorial was then adopted, as follows :

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States,
in Congress assembled :*

YOUR MEMORIALISTS, a convention of two hundred and ninety-four delegates from the States of Wisconsin, Iowa Illinois and Missouri, and the Territory of Minnesota, assembled at Burlington, in the State of Iowa, on the 23d and 24th days of October, 1851, respectfully call the attention of your Honorable body to the obstructions to the navigation of the Mississippi river, usually known as the Des Moines and the Rock River Rapids, and ask that the same be removed by the General Government, so that a free and practicable channel be opened through them.

Your memorialists insist upon the reasonableness, the justice and the perfect practicability of their request. The Mississippi being a great NATIONAL HIGHWAY, this is a National work, and has been so regarded by a previous Congress, in making appropriations for the same object, which, though too small to complete the work, resulted in great benefit to the navigation of that river.

Your memorialists further state, that the character of those obstructions is such as greatly to cripple the commerce of the River, during the larger portion of the time in which it is open for navigation; and that a removal of the same, while it would conduce to the prosperity and convenience of the people dependent on the River as an outlet, would also enhance the value and facilitate the settlement of the Government Lands of the

Northwest, situate above said Rapids, and would be economy to the Government in the end, in a saving of cost of transportation of supplies and armament.

Your memorialists further refer your honorable body to the resolutions passed by this convention, and to statistics which will be embodied and furnished by a committee of this body.

Col. Geo. Madeira offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, As the sense of this convention, that it is the duty of its members to use their influence individually, to impress upon the attention of Congress, the great importance to the commercial and agricultural interests of the Upper Mississippi country, that immediate attention be given to their wishes and wants, as expressed through their memorial to that honorable body.

The following resolution was offered by D. Rorer, and was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we view the removal of the obstructions in the channel of the Mississippi River, at its mouth, as necessary to the prosperity of the whole Mississippi Valley, and, therefore, a matter of highly national concern; and that our respective Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to aid in the adoption of all requisite measures, for the accomplishment of this object.

The following resolution was offered by Hon. L. M. Kennett, Mayor of St. Louis, and was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be and they are hereby tendered to the citizens of Burlington for their kindness and hospitality to the members of this body during their stay in the city.

The following resolution was offered by Hon. J. B. Bowlin, of St. Louis, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three citizens of Burlington, be appointed to superintend the publication of the proceedings of this convention, to embrace the Memorial to Congress, and such letters as the committee of publication deem advisable;—and that each member of this convention be requested to contribute fifty cents to defray the expense of publication, and that a copy be forwarded to the President of the U. S., the Heads of Departments and each member of Congress, and each member of this convention.

The President appointed the following committee on the above resolution, Gen. J. M. Morgan, J. C. Hall and James W. Grimes.

A letter of Gen. Geo. W. Jones, of Iowa, to the convention, was read.

The following resolution was offered by C. H. Haven, of St. Louis, and was adopted.

Resolved, That when this convention adjourns, it will adjourn to meet again at the city of St. Louis, in one year from this date, for the purpose of sustaining and carrying out the great object which has now called us together, and to further the general improvement of the Mississippi river from its source to its mouth; and that the officers of this meeting be constituted a Standing Committee in furtherance of the design contemplated by this resolution.

The following resolution was offered by Hon. J. B. Bowlin, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be presented to the President for the dignified, impartial and satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the duties of presiding officer of this body.

On motion of Geo. Frazee, the thanks of this convention were presented to the Trustees of the Methodist Church, for the use of their house during the sittings of this convention.

Gen. A. C. Dodge, of Iowa, being called upon, addressed the convention at length upon the subjects which had engaged the attention of the convention.

On motion the convention adjourned.

STEPHEN HEMPSTEAD,

President.

Vice Presidents.

L. M. KENNETT,

T. M. ISETT,

J. B. BOWLIN,

J. M. GOODRUE,

J. B. BRANT,

ALEX. J. O'NEIL,

L. BISSELL,

JAMES KNOX,

R. P. LOWE,

S. S. PHELPS.

JAMES M. MORGAN,

E. H. N. PATTERSON, } *Secretaries.*

CHARLES D. DRAKE. }

CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. LOUIS, October 20th, 1851.

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your obliging letter inviting me to attend a convention of delegates from the States of Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin, and the Territory of Minnesota, to be held at the city of Burlington on the 23d instant, for which I tender to you my grateful thanks, and regret that the pressure of my engagements will oblige me to deny myself the gratification it would afford me to be present, and co-operate in the effort to promote the object of the convention.

The removal of the obstructions to navigation at the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids, though of more immediate interest to the States and Territory to be represented in the convention, is eminently a national work. The free navigation of the Mississippi river is guaranteed to all the citizens of the United States by solemn compacts. Every improvement in that river is for the common benefit, and ought to be made at the common charge; but apart from that consideration, the removal of the only serious obstructions to the safe and uninterrupted navigation of that great river, for a distance of two thousand miles, in which the people of nine States and one Territory are directly interested, ought to command the prompt attention of Congress.

There are doubtless still some persons who either deny altogether the authority of Congress to make appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors, or limit the power to tide water, but the general power has been so often exerted, and so generally conceded, that it cannot now be regarded as debatable. In respect to the improvement of the Mississippi river and its navigable tributaries, there is not only a power delegated, but a trust created, which Congress is bound to execute. The General Government is a party to the compacts by which the navigation of these rivers is declared to be free to all the citizens of the United States. They are now, and are to remain forever, natural highways, over which no State can exert any authority. It belongs to Congress exclusively to regulate the navigation and use of them, and to provide for improvements. The United States, in assuming the control of these, to the exclusion of the States, assumed also the obligation to provide and apply the means to make them available as

national highways, by making all practicable improvements which may be necessary to secure a safe and uninterrupted navigation.

I cannot agree with those, (of whom there have been some in the national council,) who regard appropriations for the improvement of our rivers, as mere gratuities, which may be bestowed or refused at the pleasure of Congress, and are always to be postponed until there is a surplus in the Treasury which is not required for some other purpose. In my opinion the obligation to make such appropriations for the work which it is the object of your convention to promote, and others of a like character, is imperative—and cannot be disregarded without a breach of a plain duty.

It must be admitted, however, that there is some apology for the inaction of Congress, for several years, in the apparent indifference of those directly interested in the prosecution of works of improvement in our rivers. They have certainly failed to urge their just claims, with the unanimity and energy necessary to success; indeed they have not been able always to command the favor of their own immediate representatives. The call of the Burlington convention, and the promptitude with which that call has been responded to by the people of the States and Territories to be represented, indicate a favorable change, and encourage the hope of more efficient action in future. The deliberations of the convention will, I hope, result in securing the co-operation, not only of the States immediately interested, but of all the States and people of the Valley of the Mississippi. When the people of this Valley shall be sufficiently impressed with the importance of acting in concert, to make common cause for the common benefit, they may command success, and I am not without hope that the day is not far distant, when there will be more of union and concert among the representatives from the Valley States, and more energy in maintaining their common interests. When we shall have no occasion to supplicate as a favor what we have a right to demand as an act of justice, the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by the General Government.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your ob't s'tvt,
H. S. GEYER.

Messrs. J. M. Morgan, J. F. Tallant, J. J. Child, J. W. Woods,
L. D. Stockton, A. W. Carpenter, M. S. Foote, W. B. Ewing,
J. P. Sunderland, H. W. Starr, F. J. C. Peasley and
David Rorer. Committee of Correspondence.

BELLEVILLE, Ill., October 4, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: I regret exceedingly that, owing to a positive engagement to act as counsel in a capital case at the same time, it will be wholly out of my power to be present with you in your convention in Burlington on the 23d of this month. I am truly sorry for this, as I heartily approve of the movement, and would be glad to have an opportunity of meeting with the gentlemen who may be there assembled, in calling public attention, and particularly the attention of those States that border upon the Mississippi river, to the immense importance of the improvement of the Mississippi Rapids. The most effectual way of doing this is by a convention. The representations of such a body with regard to the nature, cost, and general advantages of such an enterprise, will have great weight with the National Legislature, and the moment Congress can be made to understand the vast importance of the work, I think it will not be difficult to get an adequate appropriation for it.

It will give me great satisfaction to contribute my feeble efforts to aid in the accomplishment of this great western and national object. I have the honor to be your ob't s'vt,

JAS. SHIELDS.

Messrs. James M. Morgan, J. J. Child, and others.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., October 10, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of the 24th ult., inviting me to the convention to be held at the city of Burlington, on Thursday, the 23d day of October, (inst.) "to consider, deliberate, and devise ways and means to secure the immediate action of the General Government for the improvement of the Rapids of the Upper Mississippi river.

In this great work, I am with you, both heart and soul. It is one in which the citizens of this city have manifested the deepest interest, to my own personal knowledge, for more than twenty years. And I am truly glad that the subject is about to arouse the public mind more extensively to a due consideration of its importance. And I sincerely hope the public voice, throughout the whole great Valley of the West, may be so united and strong, and expressed in such loud tones, as not only to be heard and felt beyond the mountains, but that it shall command the respect and receive the consideration due to the great extent of country and large population from which it emanates.

In all that you have said or may say, or that can be said in support of this necessary and desirable improvement, I most

heartily concur and coincide. But, as I am preparing to leave for Washington in a very few days, and am necessarily pressed with business engagements which my contemplated absence necessarily imposes, it will not be in my power to attend the convention, and am therefore compelled to forego the pleasure of being present at that great meeting of the people. But I beg leave to give the assurance that I will labor most zealously, for the consummation of this great work. I will labor in the House and out of the House—and hope to be of some feeble service by constant exertions, towards having this desirable improvement brought to the early consideration of Congress. The Representatives in Congress from the Valley of the Mississippi united, can effect it. And, if the work is not taken hold of and favorably acted upon in the next Congress, the friends of the measure shall not have it to say, so far as I am concerned, that it was for want of industry, vigilance and attention on the part of its supporters in the House of Representatives.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your ob't serv't,

JOHN F. DARBY.

To Messrs. James M. Morgan, Moses F. Foote, and others.

GEN. MORGAN and DR. G. F. HENRY:

DEAR SIRS: To my profound regret, I am unexpectedly prevented from attending the convention at your city on the 23d. No trifling obstacle should have deterred me from going; but my deposition is required in an important suit pending in Kentucky, and the day for taking it is the 23d. An attorney for one of the parties is here to superintend the cross-examination, and as I do not feel at liberty to defeat the taking of the deposition under the circumstances, I am most reluctantly compelled to forego the trip to Burlington. I regret this on many accounts; but especially because I feel a deep interest in the improvement of the Rapids, and was desirous to testify that interest by my presence at the convention. The truth is, we of the west, have so long slumbered on our rights, and have so patiently submitted to the neglect of the General Government, that it now behooves every man who feels the slightest interest in developing the resources of this magnificent valley, to exert whatever influence he possesses, be it much or little, in impressing upon Congress, the fact that our claim to a reasonable share of the fostering care of the Government will be no longer delayed. So far as it regards the improvement of the

Mississippi, I believe politicians of all parties and of all shades of opinion, concur in the belief that there are no constitutional difficulties in the way. It is simply a question of *expediency*, about which I should imagine there could scarcely be two opinions. That the navigation of such a thoroughfare should so long have been allowed to be suspended, during a large portion of every year, by obstacles so easily removed, would almost defy belief, if we had not the but too certain evidence of the fact constantly before our eyes. But the fault, in my judgment, is imputable not more to the representatives from other sections of the Union, than to those whose constituents are immediately interested in this work. There has been apparently no concerted action on the subject, and no serious effort has been made in any quarter to present the question before the nation in the light which its importance demands. The time has arrived when our representatives must be made to feel, that grave questions like this, affecting the interests of many States, cannot and *shall* not be neglected with impunity. If the importance of this improvement is properly presented to Congress, and elucidated by such statistical information as can easily be had, there need be no fear I think that it will receive that consideration which its magnitude demands. With a full treasury, such a work as this—so eminently national in its character—cannot appeal in vain to Congress, if our own representatives are but faithful to the trusts confided to them.

Repeating my sincere regret that I am unable to be present, I assure you I shall look with great interest to the result of your deliberations.

Respectfully your ob't serv't,

J. B. CROCKETT.

My thanks to Doctor Henry for his kind invitation, and which I regret I am unable to accept.

J. B. C.

ST. LOUIS, October 21, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: I am much honored by your polite invitation to attend the Convention at Burlington, but regret very much that neither my present health nor engagements will allow me the gratification of availing myself of it, any further than to express to you my cordial good wishes for your entire success in the object you have in view.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

THOMAS ALLEN.

Messrs. J. M. Morgan, M. S. Foote and others.

Dubuque, October 20, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: I had the satisfaction to have received yours of the 25th of September, in which you invite me to be present at a Convention to be holden at Burlington, on the 23d of this inst., "to consult as to the best means of securing the immediate action of Congress in the improvement of the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids of the Mississippi river."

In reply, I have to remark that it would afford me no common gratification to be able to comply with your invitation, but my professional engagements will utterly forbid.

I have no reason to suppose that any opinions of mine would materially affect the deliberations of the convention, or any conclusions to which it might arrive; nevertheless, had I the command of my time, I should not hesitate to express my views somewhat at length.

Perhaps no constitutional power is less clearly defined than that which is supposed to involve the right of "internal improvement"—certainly none has been more debated and vexed without coming to definite and satisfactory conclusions. The great difficulty has been not to establish in the Government of the United States the power to construct works of internal improvement, but to establish the dividing line between those which are of sufficient magnitude to be national in their character, and those which fall below that grade.

But in reference to the subjects of your deliberation, I do not think we are required to contemplate the distinction. If there are some objects of internal improvement so unimportant and doubtful, as that we may find it difficult to classify them, I must unhesitatingly say that I do not regard the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids of that class—if a single improvement on the Lakes is constitutional and national, I think those which you contemplate are constitutional and national, also.

You have my best wishes touching your deliberations. I trust they will be harmonious, wise and effectual. I conclude with the assurance of a readiness on my part, to second your action for the improvement of the great river whose commerce is vital to almost one half the people of the United States, in whatever position I may occupy.

I am truly your ob't serv't,

LINCOLN CLARK.

Messrs. J. M. Morgan, M. Foote and others.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ST. LOUIS, Oct. 9, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: It is made my pleasant duty to apprise you of the proceedings of the Chamber of Commerce, in reply to your communication inviting them to attend a convention to be held in Burlington on the 23d inst., for the purpose of taking some action relative to the removal of the obstructions in the Mississippi river, known as the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids. A copy of the proceedings I herewith enclose.

Let me assure you, gentlemen, of the deep interest which the mercantile community of St. Louis feel in the objects which will claim the attention of the convention. And allow me to hope that the deliberations of the convention may be characterized with harmony and good feeling, and may have the effect of accomplishing the object so much desired, and which must prove so beneficial to the West.

Respectfully yours,

WM. M. MORRISON,

Pres't Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis.

Messrs. J. M. Morgan, M. S. Foote, and others.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, Oct. 7, 1851.

The President laid before the Chamber for their action, a communication from a committee at Burlington, Iowa, urging the improvement of the navigation of the Upper Mississippi Rapids, and requesting the attendance of the members of the Chamber of Commerce, at a convention to be held in Burlington, on the 23d inst.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Alexander, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to select twenty-five delegates to be present at said convention, and represent this Chamber.

Whereupon the Chair appointed the following members to constitute said committee, viz:

J. H. Alexander, Thos. H. Larken, Joseph A. Sire, Joseph Stettinius and George Partridge.

The committee, after withdrawing for a short period, returned and reported the following list of delegates, viz:

H. Von Phul, James A. Bryan, J. T. Chappell, D. A. January, J. D. Houseman, R. J. Lackland, J. McFadin, James S. Watson, George Partridge, Alfred Vinton, Wayman Crow, J. P. Doan, John How, J. A. Brownlee, J. C. Bull, James Harrison, Joseph Charless, George Pegram, W. L. Ewing, Thos. D. Day, J. H. Alexander, Lyman Scott, R. M. V. Kercheval, and Ernst C. Anglerodt.

On motion of Mr. Stettinius, the said delegation was empowered to fill vacancies.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Alexander, it was

Resolved, That the President of the Chamber be requested to acknowledge the receipt of the communication from the committee of Burlington, accepting the invitation tendered, and informing them of the number and names of the delegates elected by the Chamber, to be present and to represent the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce at the convention to be held on the 23d inst.

A true copy from the records. EDWARD BARRY,
Sec'y St. Louis Cham. of Com.

ST. PAUL, Min. Ter., Oct. 6th, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated on the 25th ult., in which you are pleased to ask my attendance and co-operation at a convention to be held in your city on the 23d inst., to adopt measures to "secure the immediate action of the general government for the improvement of the Rapids of the Upper Mississippi River."

The object of the convention is one in which the people of this territory are deeply interested; and one to which they will, I am confident, cordially lend their aid. This point is regarded as the head of navigation of the Mississippi, below the Falls of St. Anthony. A project is already being agitated for connecting this place by railroad, via Stillwater and the Falls of St. Croix, with the St. Louis river, of Lake Superior, a distance of only one hundred and thirty miles, which, if successful, will open to the Valley of the Mississippi the immense mineral wealth bordering upon the lake. It will add more than 25 per cent. to the commerce of the lakes. It will enable us to choose between an eastern and a southern market, for our produce. It will enable emigrants to reach the West, without material change of latitude, through a speedy and cheap channel. It will be the means of settling an extensive and fertile country, now a wilderness. It will empower the government to concentrate the national military force, at almost any point on the frontier, in a very few days.

Should you be successful in your efforts, the Mississippi will be to the West what the Atlantic is to the East.

Permit me, gentlemen, to recommend, that you also take into consideration the propriety of urging upon Congress, the immediate construction of a ship canal around the Falls of the

Sault Ste. Marie, a work of mighty importance to the entire country, and one that, in my humble judgment, should command your notice. Your proceedings not being sectional in their character, and deserving, as they will doubtless receive, the hearty response and co-operation of every liberal-minded man, interested in the commerce of the lakes.

It is with regret that I avow my inability to do myself the honor of attending your convention, and for your success, permit me to express my most fervent wishes.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY M. RICE.

J. M. Morgan, M. S. Foote, and others.

DU BUCHE, Iowa, Oct. 20th, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: I have delayed, until this moment, a reply to your letter of the 25th ult., inviting me to be present at Burlington, on the 23d inst., to attend the "Rapids Convention" with the hope that I might be enabled so to dispense with my public and private affairs as to be present on the all-important occasion.

A *confident* belief that my *early* departure for Washington City *may* result beneficially to my constituents, in preparing for the approaching session of Congress; and, especially, with reference to the contemplated Railroad, Des Moines and Mississippi River improvements, induce me now to remain here with the expectation of leaving for the Federal City, *certainly*, by Thursday next.

That I, in common with the great mass of the people in this section of the Union, feel deeply interested in the early removal of the obstructions to the navigation of the Upper Mississippi River, at the two Rapids, no one can doubt, who is acquainted with me and who is disposed to do me justice. I have resided in this vicinity for the last quarter of a century, and during most of the time I was largely engaged in the mercantile and lead business, having had three stores and as many lead furnaces. The heavy losses which I sustained in the way of increased prices of freights, wrecks, &c., &c., consequent upon the existence of these obstructions, which are the only difficulties encountered in the navigation of the river, could not but convince me of the importance of this great work, not only to the people residing upon the Mississippi, but of the whole West.

My most zealous efforts were given as early as 1835, when

I had the honor of representing, as Delegate in Congress, the Territory which now forms the States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa and Minnesota Territory.

At that session and the following one, appropriations to the amount of \$80,000 were made for that object. A small proportion of that fund was consumed in the work, but sufficient to demonstrate the feasibility thereof, as proposed in the able report and survey made by the then Lieutenant, now Major Lee of the United States Topographical Corps. At the last session of Congress, but one, my colleague, Gen. A. C. Dodge, and I, both, brought this subject to the attention of the Senate, he by the introduction and reference of a special bill, and I by resolution.

I am, respectfully, gentlemen, your ob't serv't,

GEORGE W. JONES.

Gen. J. M. Morgan, M. S. Foote and others.



NAMES OF DELEGATES.

FROM IOWA.

BURLINGTON.—Hon. A. C. Dodge, Lyman Cook, John G. Foote, J. W. Grimes, Levi Hager, W. F. Coolbaugh, J. F. Tallant, Capt. McKell, J. F. Abrahams, George Frazee, J. M. Morgan, H. W. Starr, Hon. Charles Mason, J. J. Child, Dr. J. F. Henry, Wm. B. Ewing, J. L. Corse, Milton D. Browning, L. D. Stockton, E. D. Rand, Major Temple, A. Lemon and David Rorer.—[Twenty-five.

DES MOINES COUNTY.—Franklin Wilcox, Calvin Gamage, Wm. Lammerce, Henry Avery, Jacob Comstock.—[Five.

MUSCATINE COUNTY.—Hon. Joseph Williams, A. McAulay, John G. Gordon, H. W. Moore, Chester Weed, John Lemp, Geo. C. Stone, Benjamin Nye, Theodore S. Parvin, John A. Funk, G. S. Branham, Capt. Cummins, H. D. La Cossit, N. McCormick, John A. Parvin, Chas. Nealley, Jacob Hershe, Jonathan Neidig, Thomas M. Isett, A. W. Hull, John G. Stein, Henry Funk, Sewel Foster, Isaac Whitman, John B. Dougherty.—[Twenty-five.

DU BUQUE.—Gov. Stephen Hempstead, Benj. M. Samuels, Wm. Y. Lovell, Geo. L. Nigtingale, Wm. A. Jones, John King, T. S. Wilson, James Burt, George Madeira, A. P. Wood, Phineas W. Crawford.—[Eleven.

KEOKUK.—G. E. Kilbourne, L. E. Johnson, G. Williams, C. P. Varse, Capt. Hay, T. N. Claggett, R. P. Lowe, Hawkins Taylor, G. S. Taylor, O. P. Ball, W. Armstrong, George E. Kellerman, Daniel Hine, Silas Haight, T. B. Cumming, H. T. Reid, Edward Kilbourne, L. R. Rives, D. W. Pressel.—Nineteen.

LINN COUNTY.—D. O. Finch.—[One.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.—B. Henn, W. H. Wallace.—[Two.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.—N. Everson, William H. Rosseau.—[Two.

HENRY COUNTY.—Herman Biggins, Abijah Hughes, William Conaway, John H. Higgins, John M. Randolph, G. G. Gala-

way, Wm. Thompson, John P. Grantham, A. B. Porter, D. Henderson, Dr. J. Munroe, J. F. Punkett, Monroe Bain, A. Saunders, E. Killpatrick, W. B. Hill, H. M. Snyder, Robert McCabe, Hosea Kendale, J. S. Bartruff, C. F. Duvall, Bernard McMahon, J. J. King, Thomas Leviter.—[Twenty-four.

FORT MADISON.—Thomas S. Espy, Judge Edward Johnson, Hon. D. F. Miller, Joseph Schmelger, Peter Miller, J. W. Albright, John Kress, Hon. A. Thurston, George Rice, James E. Montandon, John K. Swarts, Henry Katermale, Isaiah Hale, John Shafer, Wm. C. Stripe, Robert A. Russel, E. Winery, Wm. N. Shaw, Olway Cutter, James M. Beck, Henry M. Salmon, James D. Eads, Richard Pritchett, Wm. W. Phelps, John Claypool, Isaac R. Adler, John M. Walker, Benedict Huggle, Robert McFarland, James M. Reid, G. W. Crane, Robert Graham, Joel C. Walker, O. Berdell, James C. Parrett, D. H. Lesuer, S. T. Knapp, Isham Newby, Thomas Newby, W. B. Adamson, M. Buck, H. Forbes, H. F. Roe, J. Harsey, A. J. Richardson, P. Hyter.—[Forty-six.

LOUISA COUNTY.—Oliver Benton, James W. Isett, E. H. Thomas, John Herrick, John Bird, B. F. Wright, G. W. Baldridge, Jacob Pilger, E. B. Tupp, Joshua Marshall, William L. Toole, Cicero Hamilton, A. B. Porter, J. C. Lockwood.—Eleven.

DAVENPORT.—A. Saunders, J. Sanger, J. Toray, G. H. Goldsmith, E. Steinehlber, Jas. Renick.—[Six.

LEE COUNTY.—Isaac W. Griffith, T. A. Walker, Samuel Walker, D. O. Finch.—Four.

MONTROSE.—Wm. Chittenden, James Elder, W. J. Cochran, Solomon Buckley, A. McKinney.—[Five.

FROM MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS.—Hon. J. B. Bowlin, Hon. L. M. Kennett, Col. J. B. Brant, Capt. Lewis Bissell, Samuel R. Curtis, Nathaniel Paschall, Jas. E. Yeatman, Hugh Boyle, Samuel Russell, John Knapp, James S. Watson, Charles D. Drake, Basil Duke, L. T. LaBeaume, George Knapp, Augustus P. Ladew, Ross Scott, David Rankin, Chas. H. Haven, Robert Woods, Theophile Papin, Geo. Trask, Jesse G. Lindell, Henry Overstoltz, George W. West, Alexander F. Denny, James B. McKown, Thomas Day, Solomon H. Robbins, Nathan Ranney, George R.